

REPORT ON BIRDS SEEN AT

NETARTS BAY, OREGON

January 26 to February 12, 1915.

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HORNED GREBE - *Colymbus auritus*.

This little grebe is common on the bay but keeps to the east shore where the channel is deepest; none were seen over the mud flats at the south end of the bay.

LOON - *Gavia immer*.

Loons were common about the entrance of the bay and along the channel to about midway up the bay, but none were seen at the south end.

CASSINS AUKLET - *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*

Two Cassins Auklets were found dead on the ocean beach. None were seen alive.

CALIFORNIA MURRE - *Uria troille californica*.

Several dead murrelets were found on the ocean beach. On January 29th one of these birds was sitting amongst the rocks where it had been washed up by the tide. Upon catching it, I found the wings and almost the entire lower part covered with a thick coat of what appeared to be crude oil, this oil so matted the birds plumage as to make it almost helpless. A large percentage of the dead sea birds found along the Tillamook coast the past three years have been more or less smeared with this oil. No live murrelets were noted during my stay.

GLAUCOUS-winged GULL - *Larus Glaucescens*.

WESTERN GULL - *Larus occidentalis*.

These two gulls are about equally common both on the bay and along the coast. During low tide large flocks come to rest on the sand at the end of the sandspit and about the small fresh water streams that flow into the bay and ocean.

CORMORANTS - *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Cormorants are common on the bay at all times but as no specimens were taken the exact species was not determined. The Farallon and Baird's Cormorant are usually the most common on the bay and the Brandts about the rocks along the ocean.

RED BREASTED MERGANSER - *Mergus serrator*

This beautiful merganser was seen several times on the bay. They go in pairs or small flocks of from three to seven or eight individuals and are great divers staying under water a long time.

BALDPATE - *Mareca americana*

The baldpate, or widgeon as it is called by local hunters, is said to be a regular winter visitor on the bay. I heard this duck several times but did not succeed in collecting a specimen. They are sometimes called "ballys" by local hunters.

PINTAIL - *Dafila acuta*

This is the most common of all the river ducks that stop on Netarts Bay. They go in large flocks often numbering into the hundreds. When the wind is blowing from the west these ducks settle in close to the west shore of the bay where they are sheltered from the storm, but fall an easy prey to the hunters along the sandspit.

CANVAS-BACK - *Marila valisneria*

This great game bird is common about the south end of the bay where the water is shallow and at low tide extensive mud flats are exposed. Six specimens were taken on February 3rd that were extremely fat. After skinning they were cooked, but proved to taste strongly of the mud in which they secure their food. In fact all the ducks I have eaten in this locality taste strongly of the marine life on which they feed, and are far inferior to birds of the same species killed on our rivers.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK - *Marila affinis*

Scaups or Bluebills are fairly common on the bay. They go in flocks and feed mostly along the east shore. They are good divers and secure their food in this way.

GOLDENEYE - *Clangula americana*

A few goldeneyes were seen on the bay, but they were not nearly so common as in April, 1914.

BUFFLEHEAD - *Charitonetta albeola*

This little duck is especially common this winter and the bright little males fairly glisten in the sun all over the bay. They feed along near shore and in the sloughs at the south end of the bay where they are the most abundant.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - *Oidemia deglandi*

This scoter is common from one end of the bay to the other and their dead bodies were often seen along the sandspit.

south end of the bay during low tide. During high tide they are usually found perched on the tops of the tall spruce trees along shore.

VIRGINIAN RAIL - *Rallus virginianus*

Rails were first reported to me at Netarts Bay in November, 1914, by Mr. Chas. Wells of that locality. November 26, 1914, I took a female Virginian Rail on the tide flat at the extreme south end of the bay. During this trip from January 26th to February 10th, I hunted the tide land pretty thoroughly, but only succeeded in flushing one rail which I failed to secure. As the area suitable for this species is limited to a few acres of grassy tide flats it is fairly safe to say that there are very few Virginian Rails in the Netarts Bay district.

COOT - *Fulica americana*

Coots are extremely scarce on Netarts Bay, only a few were found in the coves along the east shore

WILSON'S SNIBE-- *Gallinago delicata*

This snipe was very scarce on the tide flats during this trip, but was common earlier in the season.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER - *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*

While watching a flock of Sanderlings on the ocean beach on February 1st, I noticed several birds in the flock were too dark colored for the Sanderling, and after shooting two of them, they proved to be the red-backed sandpiper in winter plumage. There were probably six or eight of this species in the flock. This is the first record of the occurrence of the species at Netarts in winter.

SANDERLING - *Calidris leucophaea*

This sandpiper was seen each time I visited the ocean beach at the north end of the sandspit. There was probably about one hundred birds in the flock and they usually were found feeding on the wet sand close to the waters edge. On January 2rd, during a southwest gale, I saw these birds on the bay shore where they were somewhat sheltered from the storm.

KILLDEER - *oxyechus vocifera*

On January 28th one of these birds was seen on the tide land on the Wells ranch at the south end of the bay. No others were seen until February 12th when six were seen along the bay shore near the Yager ranch.

SNOWY PLOVER - *Aegialitis nivosa*

A few of these beautiful little plover were found on the

ALBUQUERQUE HUNT - WINTER ADAPTATIONS
BALTIC BASS - FISH
sand dunes at the north end of the sandspit. They stay well up from the wet beach and feed amongst the drift wood on the high dry sand.

OREGON RUFFED GROUSE - *Bonasa umbellus sabini*

Altho I hunted over a large territory for specimens of this bird, I only found one and did not succeed in bagging it. This bird lived in a thicket just above the Wells ranch houses and roosted in an old apple tree every night. On the morning of January 11th, I found a mass of small feathers and nine tail feathers under the tree where I had seen the bird before, and I came to the conclusion that an owl had killed the grouse during the night.

CHINA PHEASANT - *Phasianus torquatus*

Last fall twelve pairs of these birds from the State Game Farm were liberated on the Wells ranch. I hunted over all likely places for pheasants several times and succeeded in locating only one male bird, and he was found in about the same place each time. Mr. Wells thinks the others must have been shot by duck hunters during the open season.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - *Accipiter velox*

A single example was seen and shot on February 8th. It was attracted to within range when I was "squeaking" a flock of nuthatches on the sandspit.

COOPERS HAWK - *Accipiter velox*

One seen on the sandspit on February 2nd.

WESTERN REDTAIL - *Buteo borealis calurus*

Red-tails were often seen on the sandspit and an old female was taken on February 11th. When first seen this bird was feeding on an old dead white-winged scoter that had been lying on the beach several days.

DUCK HAWK - *Falco peregrinus anatum*

This hawk is of regular occurrence about Netarts Bay, and they are often seen darting amongst flocks of ducks. I have never seen one kill a healthy duck, but have seen them catch and carry off cripples.

BALD EAGLE - *Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*

Eagles were seen almost daily and from the actions of one pair, I think they had a nest or intended to build on the high ridge east of the bay. On February 2nd, I saw one of these great birds standing on the wet sand just above the breakers on the ocean beach.

BELTED KINGFISHER - *Ceryle alcyon*

A single one seen perched on a dead alder tree on the east shore of the bay on February 12th.

HARRISS'S WOODPECKER - *Dryobates v. harrisi*

A few of these woodpeckers were seen and others heard in the spruce forest on Cape Lookout.

NORTHWESTERN FLICKER - *Colaptes cafer saturator*

Common as usual both in the open woods on the hills and out on the sandspit

HORNED LARK - *Otocoris*

No. 2169-2174

On February 7th Mrs. R. S. Neilson of Metarts shot two horned larks in a grassy cove on the sandspit, she saw another but failed to get it. Next day I succeeded in securing the third specimen. I preserved two of these birds, both females, but they will require farther study to determine the exact subspecies to which they belong.

COAST JAY - *Cyanocitta s. carbonacea*

Fairly common in the spruce forests on Cape Lookout, but not recorded from the sandspit.

RAVEN - *Corvus corax sinuatus*

I saw a pair of ravens on the sandspit on several occasions and believe there was just one pair in the locality during my stay.

WESTERN CROW - *Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*

Crows are common in the fields along the northeastern side of the bay but none were seen on the sandspit or about the south end of the bay.

NORTHWESTERN REDWING - *Agelaius p. caurina*

One of these birds was seen several times with a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds that fed about the yards at the Wells ranch.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK - *Sturnella neglecta*

Several meadowlarks were seen at different times about the south end of the bay.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - *Euphagus cyanocephala*

A large flock of these birds fed around the yard and in the nearby fields at the Wells ranch every day I was there.

CROSSBILL - *Loxia curvirostra minor*

This bird was common in the spruce and lodgepole pine thickets on the sandspit during my entire stay. ~~and~~ a series of skins showing a wide variation in size and color were taken.

GOLDEN CROWNED SPARROW - *Zonotrichia coronata*

Three were seen and one taken near the north end of the sandspit on February 1st, another was seen along the east side of the bay on February 9th.

OREGON CUNCO - *Junco h. oregonus*

Common in flocks at all times in the more open country. One flock came to the garden at the Wells ranch daily to feed on weed seeds picked from the ground.

RUSTY SONG SPARROW - *Melospiza m. morphna*

Probably the most abundant and widely distributed species of small bird in this section. They were particularly plentiful in the salal brush on the otherwise open hills on the sandspit and were often seen feeding about amongst the drift on the ocean beach.

FOX SPARROW - *Passerella iliaca* (subsp?)

These sparrows were fairly common in the huckleberry and salal thickets but never seen in the open.

OREGON TOWHEE - *Pipilo m. oregonus*

Fairly common in the brushy thickets on the sandspit but not seen elsewhere.

ANTHONY VIREO - *Vireo h. obscurus*

A single example seen and collected on February 9th. It was with a flock of chickadees.

PIPIT - *Aythya rubescens*

A large flock of these birds stayed along the edge of the tide flats on the Wells ranch during the entire time I was in the locality.

SEATTLE WREN - *Thryomanes b. Calophonus*

A single example seen and collected on January 30th.

WESTERN WINTER WREN - *Tannus pacifica*

Common over the entire region. This is about the only small bird that can be considered as common in the heavy forests at this time of year.

TULE WREN - *Telmatorhytes p. poludicola*

I found the tule wren to be fairly common on the tide lands at the south end of the bay, but could not locate a single specimen at any other place around the bay.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - *Sitta canadensis*

Several small flocks of this species were seen in the pines on the sand spit.

CHESTNUT BACKED CHICKADEE - *Penthestes r. rufescens*

Common at all times both on the sandspit and in the hills.

COAST WRENTIT - *Chamaea fasciata phaea*

Very common on the sandspit where they frequent the thickest tangle of salal and huckleberry brush. They seldom come into the open, but once I saw three feeding in the top of a small stunted pine.

WESTERN-GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLET - *Regulus s. olivaceus*

Common at all times and usually found in flocks accompanied by Chickadees and sometimes by Nuthatches feeding in spruce and pine trees.

SITKAN KINGLET - *Regulus c. grinnelli*

Fairly common but not so plentiful as the Golden-crowned. They feed in the willows and salmonberry bushes more than in the spruce and pines.

ALASKAN HERMIT THRUSH - *Hylocichla g. guttata*

Common in more open woods at all times during my visit.

WESTERN ROBIN - *Planesticus m. propinquus*

Robins are plentiful in all open fields about the bay, and a few were seen at the south end of the sandspit.

VARIED THRUSH - *Ixoreus n. naevius*

This beautiful bird is common in all open woods and some were seen out in open fields feeding with robins.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD - *Sialia m. occidentalis*

Seen but once when five were noted on the fence at the Wells place on January 30th.